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CURSE OF THE SPAWN

TODD McFARLANE &
IMAGE COMICS™ PRESENTS:

"TOMBS"

STORY
ALAN McELROY
PENCILS
DWAYNE TURNER
INKS
DANNY MIKI
COPY EDITOR & LETTERS
TOM ORZECHOWSKI
COLOR
TODD BROEKER
MARK NICHOLAS
A SPECIAL THANKS TO:
JOHN GORDON

DEDICATED TO:
UBIKINOKAMI MIKI

FOR IMAGE COMICS™
LARRY MARDER
Executive Director

Curse of the Spawn #6 Summary:
Wayne Tannager seeks Sam and Twitch's help in locating his missing fiancee', Gretchen Culver. Elsewhere, the police clear two more serial killer cases from their books when they find the killer's sewn up by Suture's handiwork. Then John Mawbley becomes Suture's next victim just as he intends to start a killing spree in a movie theatre. Meanwhile, Sam and Twitch trace Gretchen Culver to an empty grave...

CURSE OF THE SPAWN #7 March 1997. First Printing. Published by IMAGE COMICS 1440 N. Harbor Boulevard, Suite 305, Fullerton, CA 92635. $1.95/$2.70 in Canada. Spawn®, its logo and its symbol are registered trademarks 1997 of Todd McFarlane Productions, Inc. All other related characters are Trademark™ and Copyright© 1997 Todd McFarlane Productions, Inc. All rights reserved. Any similarities to persons living or dead is purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Todd McFarlane. PRINTED IN CANADA.

President of Entertainment, Publishing & Licensing: TERRY FITZGERALD
Graphics Coordinator: JULIA SIMMONS Editorial Coordinator: MELANIE SIMMONS

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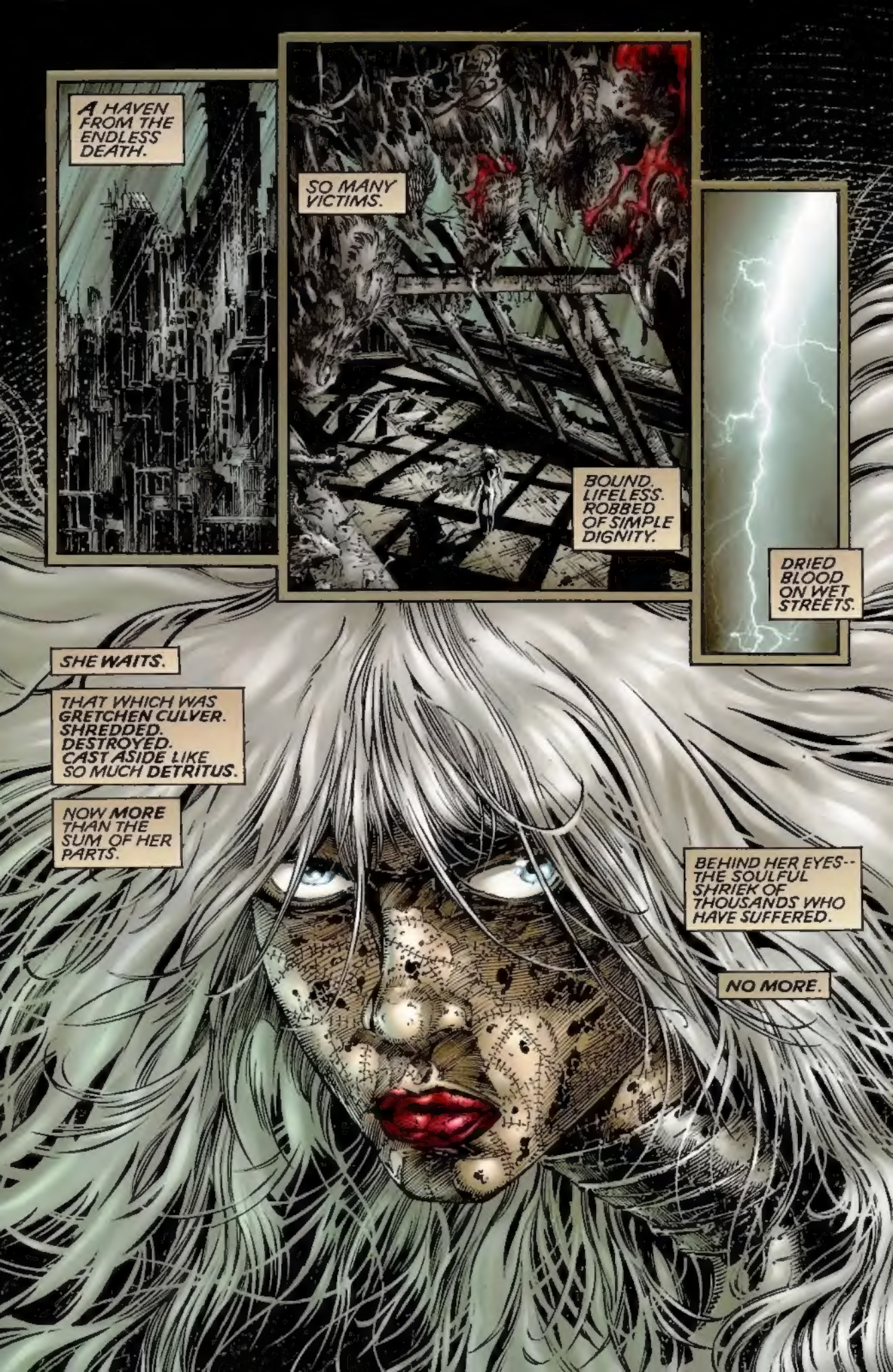
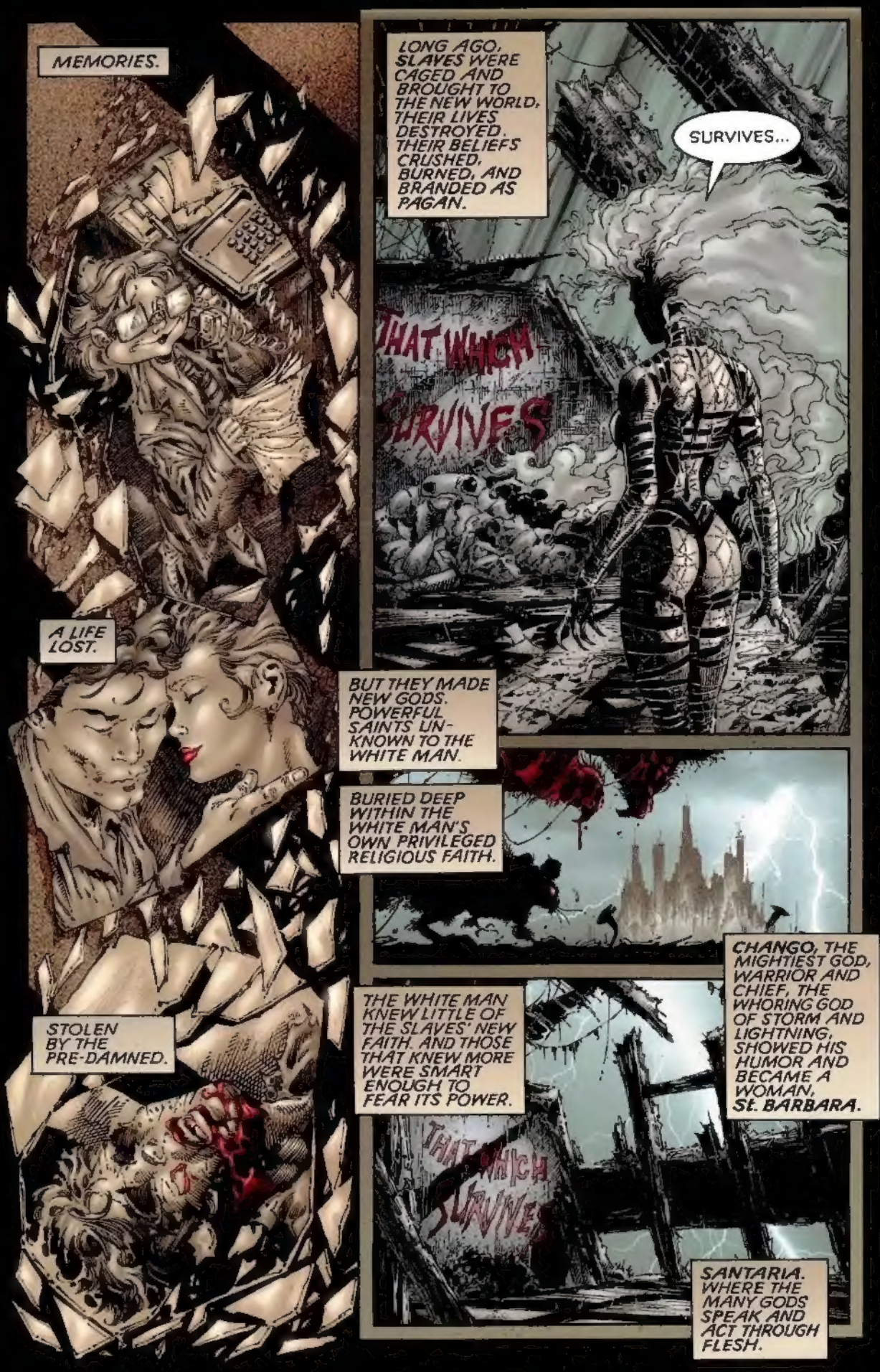

A HAVEN FROM THE ENDLESS DEATH.
SO MANY VICTIMS.
BOUND. LIFELESS. ROBBED OF SIMPLE DIGNITY.
DRIED BLOOD ON WET STREETS.
SHE WAITS.
THAT WHICH WAS GRETCHEN CULVER. SHREDDED. DESTROYED. CAST ASIDE LIKE SO MUCH DETRITUS.
NOW MORE THAN THE SUM OF HER PARTS.
BEHIND HER EYES-- THE SOULFUL SHRIEK OF THOUSANDS WHO HAVE SUFFERED.
NO MORE.


MEMORIES.
A LIFE LOST.
STOLEN BY THE PRE-DAMNED.
LONG AGO, SLAVES WERE CAGED AND BROUGHT TO THE NEW WORLD. THEIR LIVES DESTROYED. THEIR BELIEFS CRUSHED, BURNED, AND BRANDED AS PAGAN.
SURVIVES...
THAT WHICH SURVIVES
BUT THEY MADE NEW GODS. POWERFUL SAINTS UN-KNOWN TO THE WHITE MAN.
BURIED DEEP WITHIN THE WHITE MAN'S OWN PRIVILEGED RELIGIOUS FAITH.
THE WHITE MAN KNEW LITTLE OF THE SLAVES' NEW FAITH. AND THOSE THAT KNEW MORE WERE SMART ENOUGH TO FEAR ITS POWER.
CHANGO, THE MIGHTIEST GOD, WARRIOR AND CHIEF, THE WHORING GOD OF STORM AND LIGHTNING, SHOWED HIS HUMOR AND BECAME A WOMAN, St. BARBARA.
THAT WHICH SURVIVES
SANTARIA. WHERE THE MANY GODS SPEAK AND ACT THROUGH FLESH.

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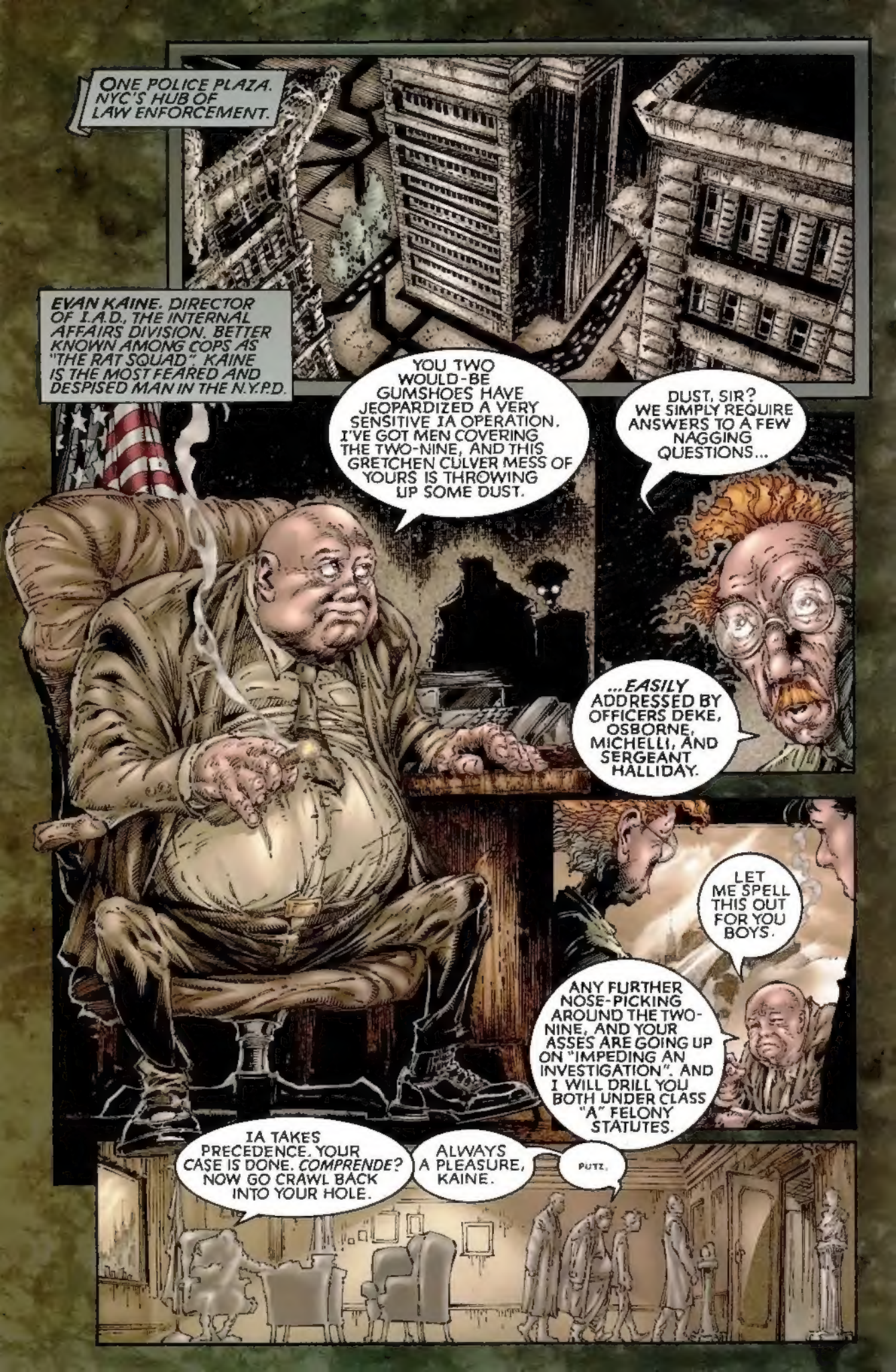
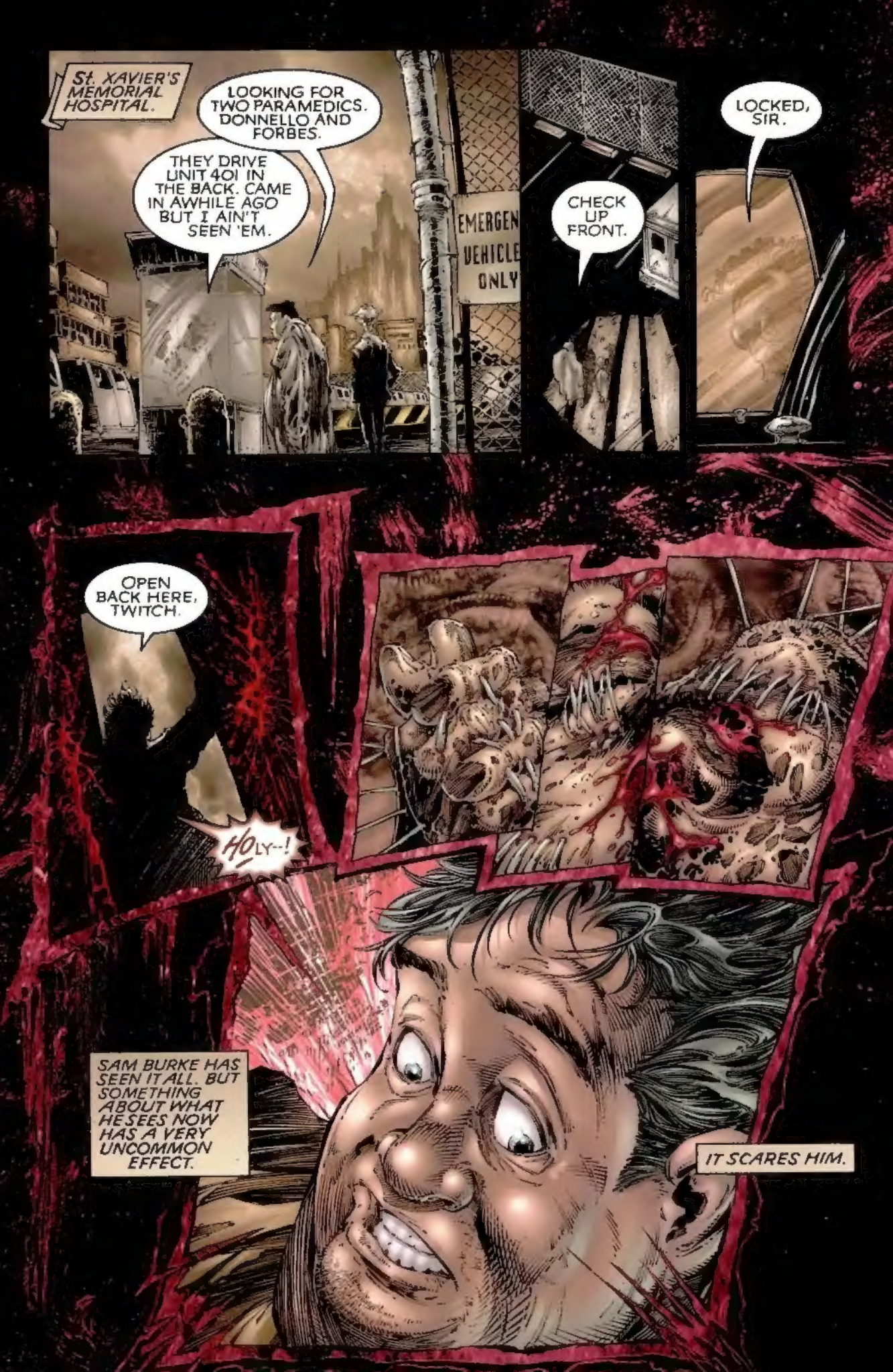
THE TWO-NINE. MANHATTAN.
I AIN'T ASKIN' YOU TO PASS KIDNEY STONES HERE, ALRIGHT. WE NEED TO TALK TO SERGEANT DOUG HALLIDAY. HOW HARD IS THAT?
SERGEANT HALLIDAY IS A POTENTIAL WITNESS IN A MISSING PERSON'S CASE WE'RE CURRENTLY INVESTIGATING.
IF YOU'LL FOLLOW ME INTO THE CAN, I'LL FLOAT YOU MY OPINION ON WHAT YOU NEED. NOW GET THE HELL OUTTA MY SIGHT.
GENTLEMEN. YOU'VE BEEN CORDIALLY INVITED DOWN TO ONE POLICE PLAZA.
AND ME WITHOUT MY GOOD TIE.
GOOD ONE, SIR.
SHUDDUP, TWITCH.


ONE POLICE PLAZA. NYC'S HUB OF LAW ENFORCEMENT.
EVAN KAINE. DIRECTOR OF I.A.D., THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION. BETTER KNOWN AMONG COPS AS "THE RAT SQUAD", KAINE IS THE MOST FEARED AND DESPISED MAN IN THE N.Y.P.D.
YOU TWO WOULD-BE GUMSHOES HAVE JEOPARDIZED A VERY SENSITIVE IA OPERATION. I'VE GOT MEN COVERING THE TWO-NINE, AND THIS GRETCHEN CULVER MESS OF YOURS IS THROWING UP SOME DUST.
DUST, SIR? WE SIMPLY REQUIRE ANSWERS TO A FEW NAGGING QUESTIONS...
...EASILY ADDRESSED BY OFFICERS DEKE, OSBORNE, MICHELLI, AND SERGEANT HALLIDAY.
LET ME SPELL THIS OUT FOR YOU BOYS.
ANY FURTHER NOSE-PICKING AROUND THE TWO-NINE, AND YOUR ASSES ARE GOING UP ON "IMPEDING AN INVESTIGATION". AND I WILL DRILL YOU BOTH UNDER CLASS "A" FELONY STATUTES.
IA TAKES PRECEDENCE. YOUR CASE IS DONE. *COMPRENDE?* NOW GO CRAWL BACK INTO YOUR HOLE.
ALWAYS A PLEASURE, KAINE.
PUTZ.

WHAT ARE THE POLICE COVERING *UP*?!
SAM & TWITCH PRIVATE INVESTIGATORS
IS GRETCHEN ALIVE OR DEAD?! *WHAT* THE HELL IS *GOING ON*?!
SURVEILLANCE CHARLES H.
LOOK, CHAMP, WE'RE DOING WHAT WE CAN. THE COPS ARE STONEWALLING FOR A ***REASON.*** MAYBE IT'S GOT SOMETHING TO DO WITH YOUR MISSING FIANCÉ, AND MAYBE IT DON'T.
GIVE ME THE NAMES OF THOSE OFFICERS. I'LL GET MY OWN ANSWERS, ***MY OWN WAY.***
LISTEN UP, IF THE NYPD'S COVERING FOR ITS OWN, YOUR MONEY AIN'T GONNA GET YOU NOTHING BUT TROUBLE WITH A CAPITAL "A" FOR YOUR VENTILATED ***ASS*** FLOATING NOSE-DOWN IN THE EAST RIVER.
PEOPLE DON'T UNDERSTAND, COPS MAKE THE MOB *LOOK* LIKE CHOIRBOYS ON SUNDAY. ATTITUDE, GUNS, AND THE LAW ON THEIR SIDE. YOU ***DON'T*** GO UP AGAINST THAT, JUNIOR. NOT IF YOU LIKE YOUR CHICKLETS WHERE GOD INTENDED.
YOU LEAVE IT TO ***US,*** WAYNE. WE WERE IN THE CLUB, REMEMBER? WE KNOW WHERE ALL THE MINES ARE PLANTED AND THE BODIES BURIED.


St. XAVIER'S MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.
LOOKING FOR TWO PARAMEDICS. DONNELLO AND FORBES.
THEY DRIVE UNIT 401 IN THE BACK. CAME IN AWHILE AGO BUT I AIN'T SEEN 'EM.
EMERGEN
VEHICLE
ONLY
CHECK UP FRONT.
LOCKED, SIR.
OPEN BACK HERE, TWITCH.
HOLY--!
SAM BURKE HAS SEEN IT ALL. BUT SOMETHING ABOUT WHAT HE SEES NOW HAS A VERY UNCOMMON EFFECT.
IT SCARES HIM.

N-NEED A DOCTOR OVER HERE!
NEED ALL THE DOCTORS OVER HERE!
NOW!
WHAT IS IT?!

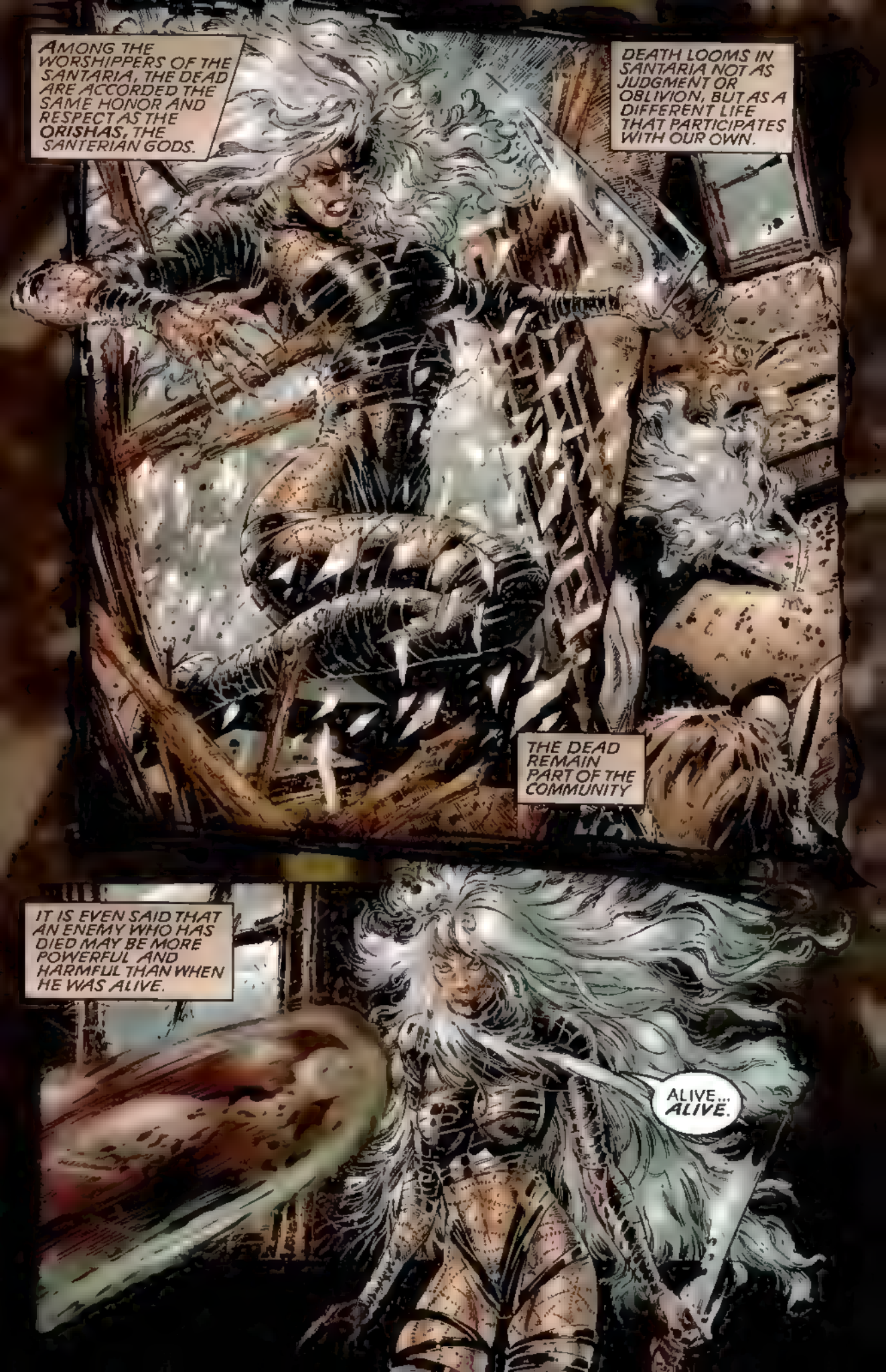
EVEN THE MOST SEASONED GROW WEAK.
JESUS CHRIST! WE NEED O-NEG, TEN UNITS, STAT! GET SOME LINES GOING IN BOTH OF THEM.
MAKE A HOLE, PEOPLE, WE GOTTA GET THESE MEN INSIDE. YOU TWO GET BACK. GIVE US ROOM TO WORK.
IT'S DONNELLO AND FORBES.
NYLON LINES. EYES, TO MOUTH, TO HANDS. ONE CONTINUOUS STRAND USED ON EACH. DEAR GOD.
Oh MOTHER MARY. LOOK AT THIS. THEIR GENITALS HAVE BEEN, uh, SURGICALLY REMOVED.
WKFF
Aw, MAN. OVER HERE.
THEIR "PRIVATES". WHAT'S LEFT.
RATS.
Aw GOD...

BURKE AND WILLIAMS HAVE YOUR SCENT, HALLIDAY. YOU LEFT TOO MANY LOOSE ENDS. DIDN'T YOUR PARENTS TEACH YOU HOW TO CLEAN UP AFTER PLAY-TIME'S OVER?
GET YOUR HOUSE IN ORDER, DOUG. OR THE THIN BLUE LINE'S GONNA CUT YOU LOOSE ALONG WITH YOUR RUNNING BUDDIES. AND IT'S A LONG WAY DOWN, COMPRENDE?
YEAH..
CLICK!
ALRIGHT, LADIES. TIME TO CLEAN UP OUR MESS
WE OUGHTA TURN OURSELVES IN.
YOU CATCH THE NEWS? SOME SUTURE COPY-CAT CASTRATED THOSE TWO PARAMEDICS THAT WERE WITH US.
SEWED UP THEIR EYES, MOUTHS, AND HANDS. SEE NO EVIL, SPEAK NO EVIL, PRAY FOR FORGIVENESS. GOTTA BE CONNECTED.
SHUT UP, KENNY. IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH US. RIGHT NOW WE'RE GONNA HANDLE BURKE AND WILLIAMS.
FIGURE TANNANGER FOR DEAD WEIGHT. BLUE-BLOOD'S GOT NO STOMACH FOR VIOLENCE.
THE TWO EX-COPS ARE ANOTHER STORY.

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS.
KARLA ROSS. A DIVORCED NURSE WITH NO CHILDREN COMING HOME AFTER AN EASY TWELVE HOUR SHIFT.
SHE HAS A DAY OFF TOMORROW AND PLANS TO SPEND IT SLEEPING.
PLANS CHANGE.
Heh-heh. FOR YOU.

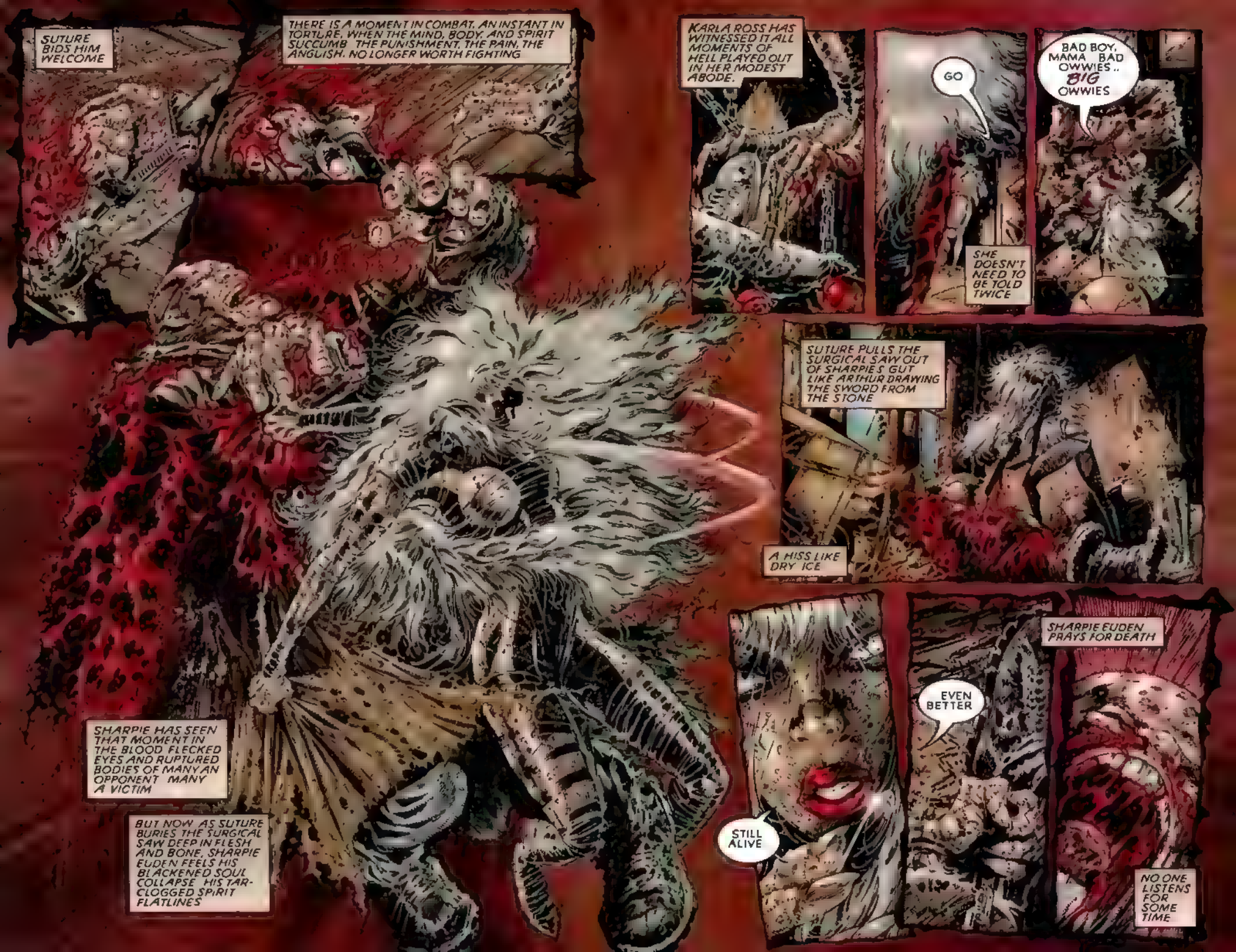
AS A NURSE, KARLA HAS SEEN DEATH IN MANY FORMS. SICKNESS. ACCIDENTS. HOMOCIDES.
SOMETIMES SHE WONDERED HOW SHE WOULD DIE. HOW SHE WOULD FACE DEATH.
THE ANSWER: SCREAMING.
MAMA WAS A BIG WOMAN. BIGGER THAN DADDY. BUT SHE WAS GENTLE. SHE LOVE ME SOOOO MUCH.
HOW COME SHE LET DADDY DO WHAT HE DONE TO ME?
IT HURT, MAMA. IT HURT BAD.
BUT THEN IT'S GOOD, SEE.
IT HURTS. BUT HURT IS GOOD.

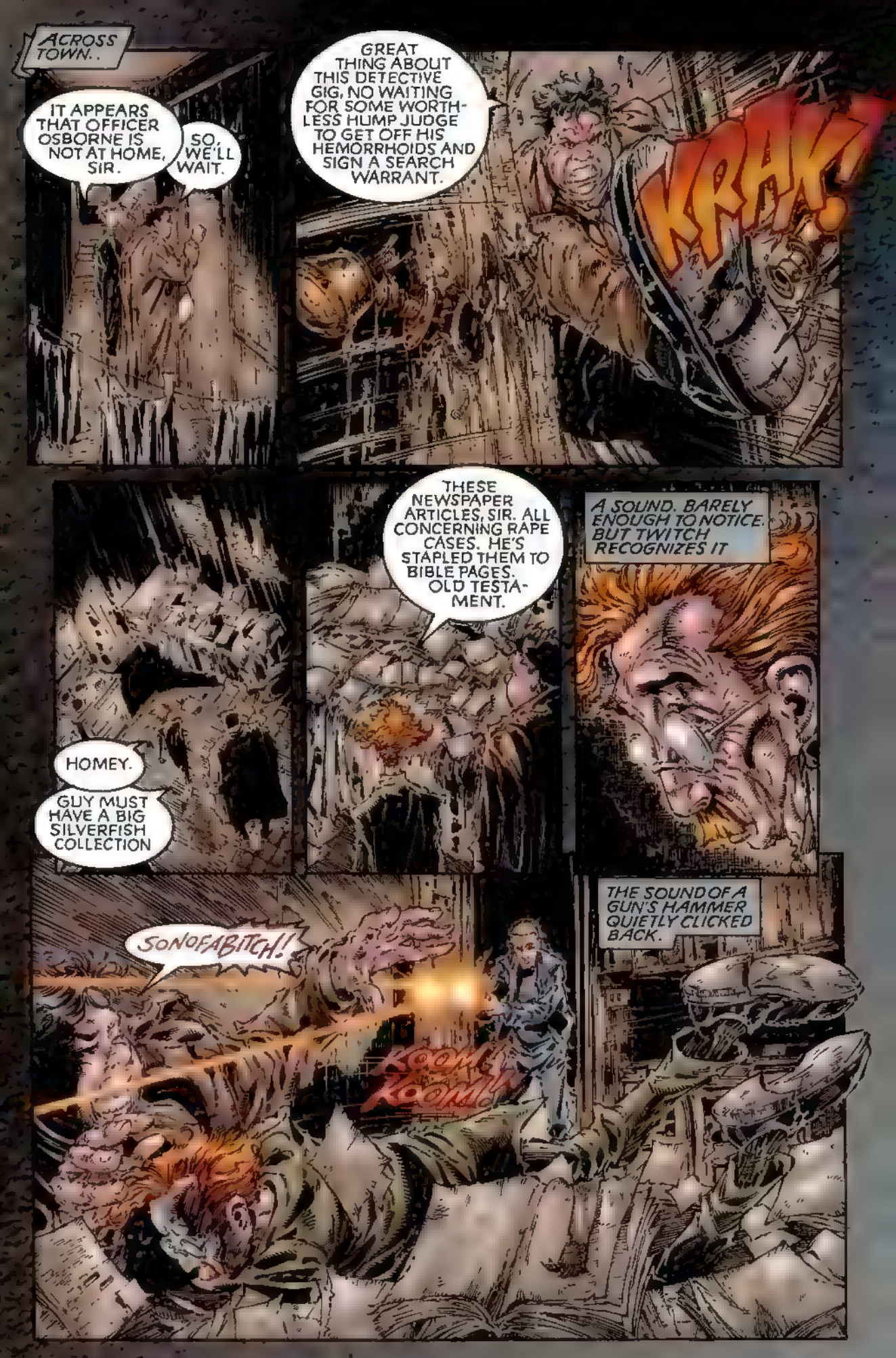
SEE, 'CAUSE PAIN IS LOVE.
LOVE IS PAIN.
THAT'S WHAT MAMA AND DADDY TAUGHT ME.
IT'S LIKE A ROSE. THE THORNS, SEE.
THE THORNS IS WHAT MAKES THE ROSE BEAUTIFUL. THAT'S LOVE
I LOVE YOU, PRETTY LADY I LOVE YOU SOOo MUCH. YOU KNOW HOW MUCH? I'M GONNA SHOW YOU.


AMONG THE WORSHIPPERS OF THE SANTARIA, THE DEAD ARE ACCORDED THE SAME HONOR AND RESPECT AS THE ORISHAS, THE SANTERIAN GODS.
DEATH LOOMS IN SANTARIA NOT AS JUDGMENT OR OBLIVION, BUT AS A DIFFERENT LIFE THAT PARTICIPATES WITH OUR OWN.
THE DEAD REMAIN PART OF THE COMMUNITY
IT IS EVEN SAID THAT AN ENEMY WHO HAS DIED MAY BE MORE POWERFUL AND HARMFUL THAN WHEN HE WAS ALIVE.
ALIVE... ALIVE.

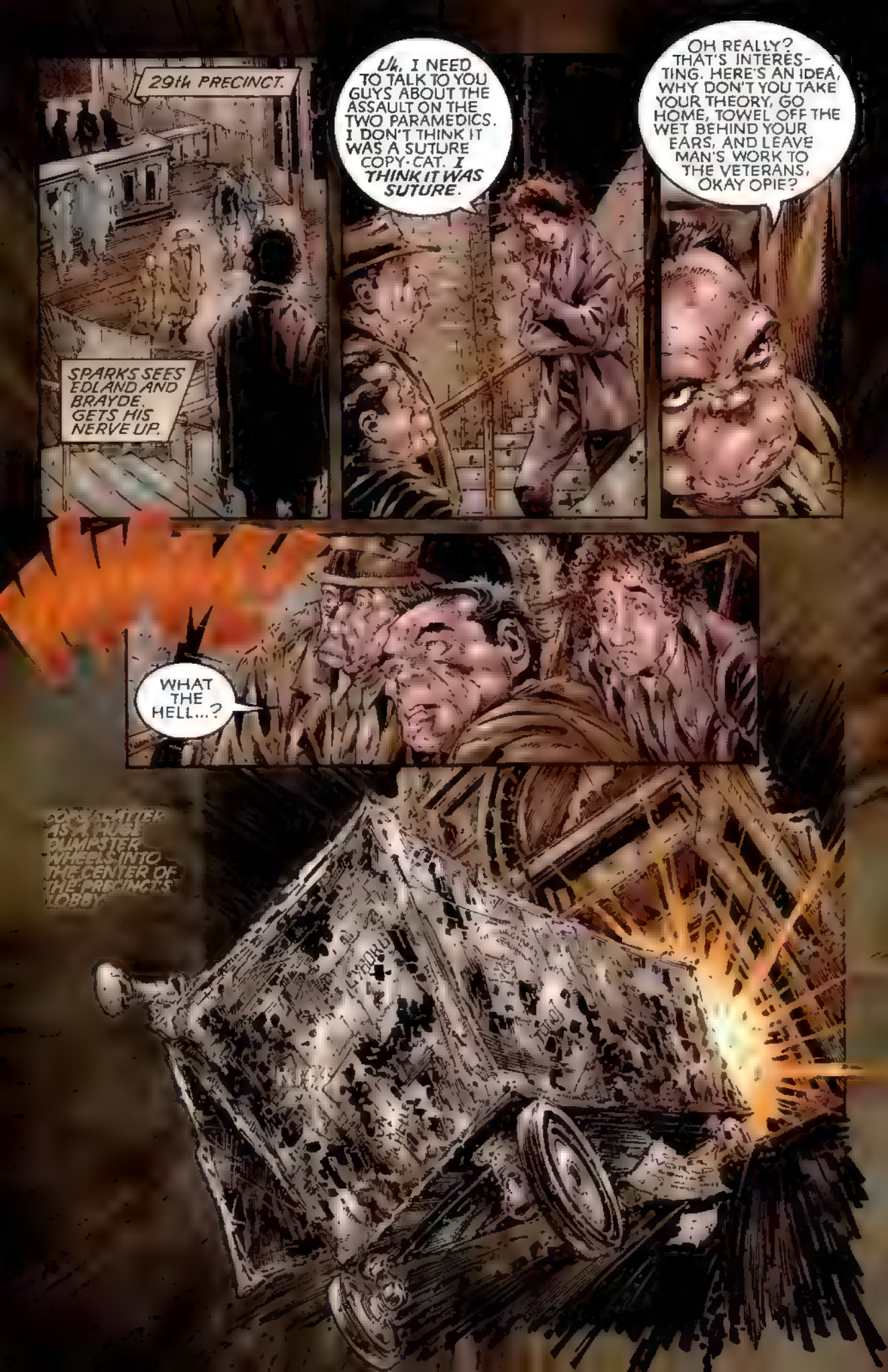
NO... PAPA SEND YOU?
PAPA SEND SHE-MONSTER TO PUNISH ME?
SHARPIE BEEN A BAD BOY. SHARPIE KNOW THIS.
BONE-BLADE VERSUS CHAIN STEEL.
YOU GO AWAY NOW, OKAY? GO AWAY!
BUT SHARPIE BE BETTER, OKAY, SHE-MONSTER?
WANG!
SHARPIE STARES INTO THE SHE-MONSTER'S ICE-BLUE EYES. AND BEARS WITNESS TO A COLD MALICIOUS JOY. NO TERROR. NO FEAR. ONLY A KIND OF COAL-BLACK HUNGER FOR MORE.
COME ON, BIG BOY. SHOW MAMA WHAT YOU'RE MADE OF.

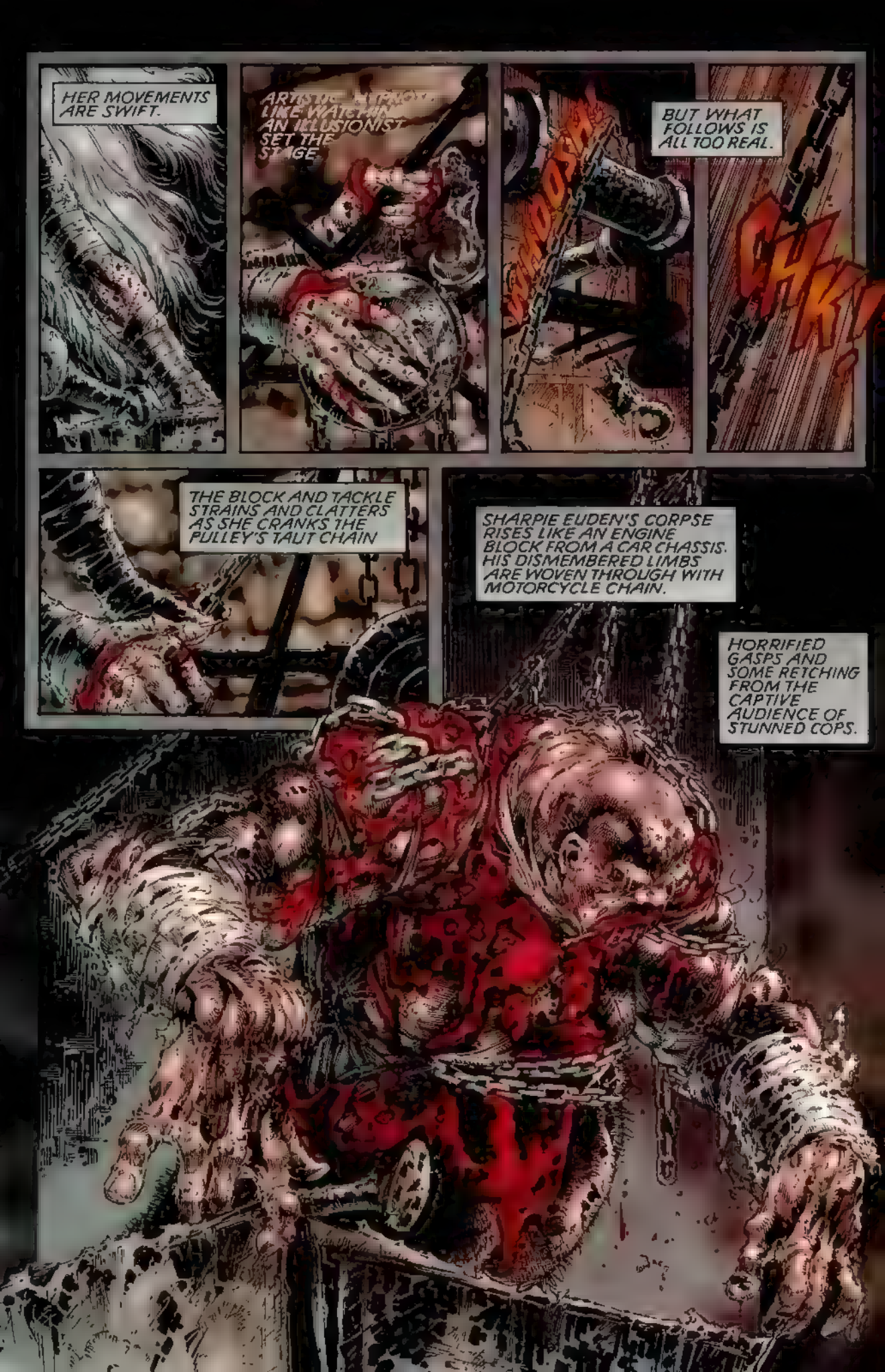
THERE IS NO MORE PUNISH-MENT.
NO MORE PAIN.
SHE IS DONE WITH HER AGONIES.
SHE HAS SURVIVED.
FOR HER, EACH CRUSHING IMPACT IS FUEL FOR HER INNER FIRE. A RAGE OF SAINTS WHO ARE THEM-SELVES SINNERS. A TOLL OF VENGEANCE CLAIMED FOR THE WRONGFULLY SACRIFICED
MY TURN.
FOR CHANGO AND OGUN. GODS WHO KNOW THE MEANING OF HATE!
SHARPIE HAS LIVED WITH PAIN SINCE MEMORY BEGAN. LONG AGO HIS NERVES LEARNED HOW TO FEEL NOTHING.
BUT NOW HIS BONES SPARK FROM THIS UNHOLY BARRAGE. HIS SOUL SCREAMS WITH A CHILD'S TERRIFIED VOICE.
AHAHAHA!
DESPERATION IS A LOCOMOTIVE ON A DEAD-COURSE TO HELL.


SUTURE BIDS HIM WELCOME
THERE IS A MOMENT IN COMBAT, AN INSTANT IN TORTURE, WHEN THE MIND, BODY, AND SPIRIT SUCCUMB THE PUNISHMENT, THE PAIN, THE ANGUISH. NO LONGER WORTH FIGHTING
KARLA ROSS HAS WITNESSED IT ALL MOMENTS OF HELL PLAYED OUT IN HER MODEST ABODE.
GO
SHE DOESN'T NEED TO BE TOLD TWICE
BAD BOY, MAMA BAD OWWIES .. BIG OWWIES
SUTURE PULLS THE SURGICAL SAW OUT OF SHARPIE'S GUT LIKE ARTHUR DRAWING THE SWORD FROM THE STONE
A HISS LIKE DRY ICE
SHARPIE HAS SEEN THAT MOMENT IN THE BLOOD FLECKED EYES AND RUPTURED BODIES OF MANY AN OPPONENT MANY A VICTIM
BUT NOW AS SUTURE BURIES THE SURGICAL SAW DEEP IN FLESH AND BONE, SHARPIE EUDEN FEELS HIS BLACKENED SOUL COLLAPSE HIS TAR-CLOGGED SPIRIT FLATLINES
STILL ALIVE
EVEN BETTER
SHARPIE EUDEN PRAYS FOR DEATH
NO ONE LISTENS FOR SOME TIME


ACROSS TOWN..
IT APPEARS THAT OFFICER OSBORNE IS NOT AT HOME, SIR.
SO, WE'LL WAIT.
GREAT THING ABOUT THIS DETECTIVE GIG, NO WAITING FOR SOME WORTHLESS HUMP JUDGE TO GET OFF HIS HEMORRHOIDS AND SIGN A SEARCH WARRANT.
KRAK!
THESE NEWSPAPER ARTICLES, SIR. ALL CONCERNING RAPE CASES. HE'S STAPLED THEM TO BIBLE PAGES. OLD TESTAMENT.
A SOUND. BARELY ENOUGH TO NOTICE. BUT TWITCH RECOGNIZES IT
HOMEY.
GUY MUST HAVE A BIG SILVERFISH COLLECTION
SONOFABITCH!
KOOM!
KOOM!
THE SOUND OF A GUN'S HAMMER QUIETLY CLICKED BACK.

OSBORNE, YOU BASTARD!
FOR SO MANY OF US, ESCAPE CAN SEEM IMPERATIVE.
BUT THERE'S NO ESCAPE FROM OURSELVES.
SAM AND TWITCH ARE OLD PROS AT THE GAME OF SUSPECT PURSUIT. CORNERING OSBORNE PROVES NO CHALLENGE.
GIVE IT UP, KENNY. YOU GOT NOWHERE TO GO.
Sob EXCEPT HELL. I ACCEPT JESUS AS MY LORD AND SAVIOR. BUT HE WON'T ACCEPT ME. NO WAY. NO CHANCE.
CAN YOU BLAME HIM? Huh? I SURE CAN'T. sniff
MISFIRE
ALRIGHT, WILD BILL, YOU GOT TWO CHOICES: START TALKING, OR SIT HERE ON YOUR ASS WHILE I USE YOUR MAJOR ORGANS FOR TARGET PRACTICE.
GO AHEAD.
SUICIDE'S EASY, KID, IT'S PAIN THAT REALLY SUCKS. AIN'T THAT RIGHT, TWITCH?
WITHOUT QUESTION, SIR.


29th PRECINCT.
SPARKS SEES EDLAND AND BRAYDE. GETS HIS NERVE UP.
Uh, I NEED TO TALK TO YOU GUYS ABOUT THE ASSAULT ON THE TWO PARAMEDICS. I DON'T THINK IT WAS A SUTURE COPY-CAT. I THINK IT WAS SUTURE.
OH REALLY? THAT'S INTERESTING. HERE'S AN IDEA, WHY DON'T YOU TAKE YOUR THEORY, GO HOME, TOWEL OFF THE WET BEHIND YOUR EARS, AND LEAVE MAN'S WORK TO THE VETERANS, OKAY OPIE?
WHAT THE HELL...?
DOUG'S TRUCK IS A HUGE DUMPSTER WHEELS INTO THE CENTER OF THE PRECINCT'S LOBBY


HER MOVEMENTS ARE SWIFT.
ARTISTIC PRECISION LIKE WATCHING AN ILLUSIONIST SET THE STAGE.
WHOOSH
BUT WHAT FOLLOWS IS ALL TOO REAL.
CHK!
THE BLOCK AND TACKLE STRAINS AND CLATTERS AS SHE CRANKS THE PULLEY'S TAUT CHAIN
SHARPIE EUDEN'S CORPSE RISES LIKE AN ENGINE BLOCK FROM A CAR CHASSIS. HIS DISMEMBERED LIMBS ARE WOVEN THROUGH WITH MOTORCYCLE CHAIN.
HORRIFIED GASPS AND SOME RETCHING FROM THE CAPTIVE AUDIENCE OF STUNNED COPS.

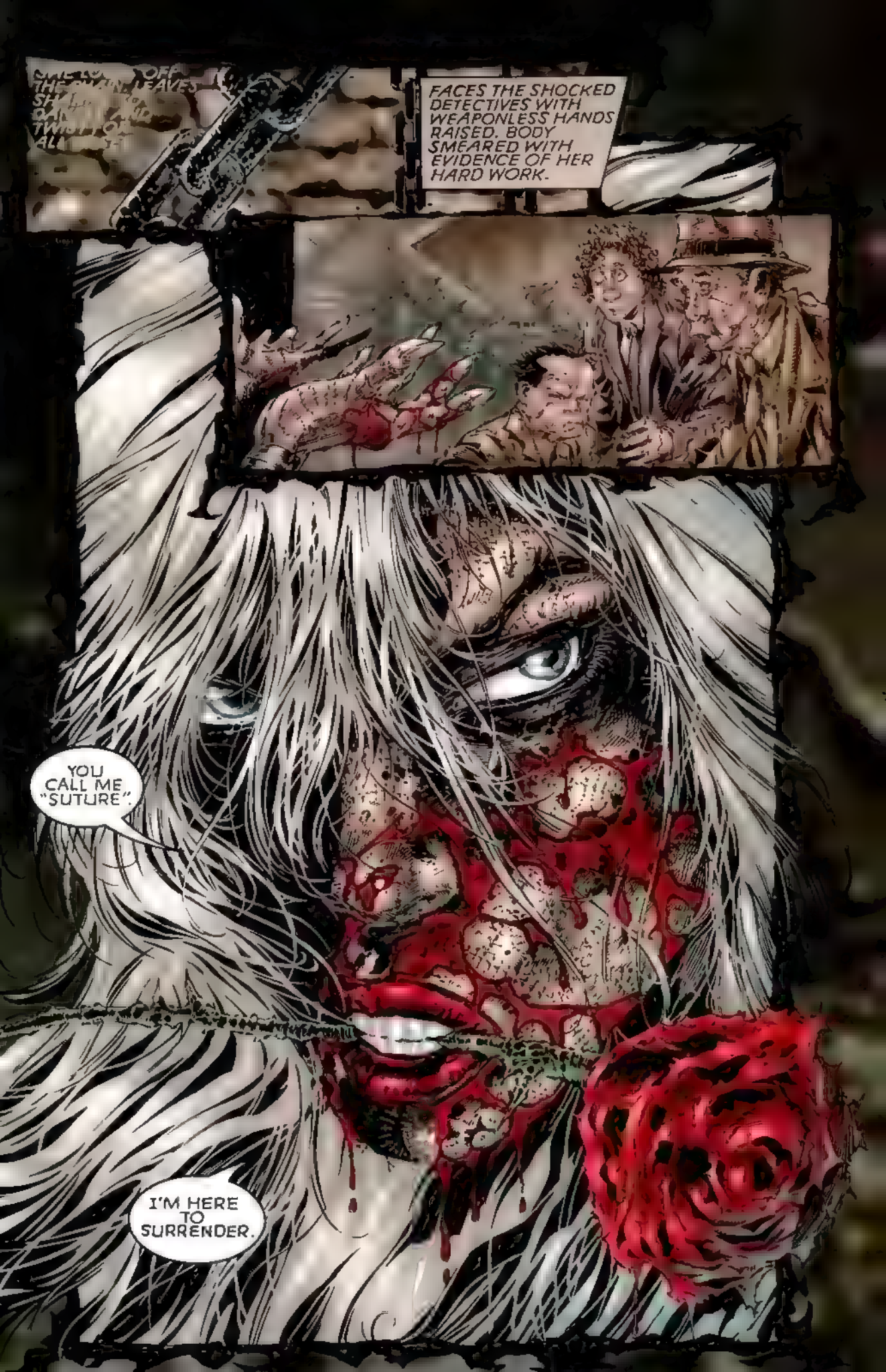

FACES THE SHOCKED DETECTIVES WITH WEAPONLESS HANDS RAISED. BODY SMEARED WITH EVIDENCE OF HER HARD WORK.
YOU CALL ME "SUTURE".
I'M HERE TO SURRENDER.

IMAGE INFO

blah, blah, blah 53

How's it going? Let's get the photo out of the way first. Check out all of the rough and ready guys on our **Spawn hockey team**! If they can't outscore the other team, (which they usually do), they can intimidate the other team into forfeiting the game. Thanks again guys for sending us the photo and for making us proud out there on the ice. Keep kicking booty!

So what has been happening since last month? Have you been out to see any movies lately? (I know everyone has been to Star Wars..., which I correctly predicted would make over $30 milion first weekend, sorry you lost the bet Todd!!). Well, New Line has started distributing the first **Spawn movie poster** to theatres all over the country. This advance poster will be very rare and collectable in the coming years, so make sure you land up getting one no matter what you have to do Legally of course. .

Todd and I were in L.A. last week meeting with the New Line marketing people They showed us the **teaser trailer for the movie** which will start running in the theatres within two to three weeks. (By the way, word is Warner Bros released the Batman & Robin trailer three weeks early to try to compete w th us Scared???) In the trailer you will see all of the characters, including the first few shots of the digital Violator from ILM Kicks the crap out of any effects you've previously seen, or will see this summer

Last thing concerning the movie this month . There are several employees of the M" comic book company going around bad mouthing the Spawn movie, saying our budget was only $13 million, blah, blah, blah. Let me for the last time set the record straight. **The movie came in under budget at just shy of $40 million** Of that $40M, **$13 million alone is for Industrial Light and Magic for the special effects**. Got it? Good. The last release dates they gave us were either August 1st, or August 22nd. We will update you..

I am in the middle of signing a few new licensees to produce Spawn products based either on the feature or the comic series. Will update..

See ya next month.... terry

CURSE WORDS™

CURSE WORDS P.O. Box 27228 Tempe AZ. 85285-7228
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Be sure to look for Spawn #59 shipping at the same time as this book. Cyan is in danger and things are much different than they appear to be!

Dear Mr McFarlane

I'm an eighteen year old Spawn reader with a Christian background. I own Spawn #'s 1-56 and appreciate your non-biased religious view. I appreciate also that you are open about your atheism. But I have just finished reading something that makes me sick.

I recently purchased Curse of the Spawn #1. What the hell is this? I'm not a die hard Christian but I could barely finish the damn book. Why not write a book where heaven rules the earth? The demons are grotesque and the book is completely negative.

The Antithesis: the Anti-pope and the new Vatican? What the hell is going on here? I know you didn't write the story but you obviously approved it. I don't get offended easily but this book really got to me. All of the blood and Necro-fire made me want to puke. The morbid artwork and the hideous story line was demeaning. The Desiccator? Who the hell is that? That's the nastiest f***ing thing I've ever seen. I'm a big Spawn fan and am very disappointed. A bunch of humans running scared shitless from the walking dead. Not very original. I've seen Night of the Living Dead many times and don't see much of a difference in this story line. No the zombies don't want brains they want cellular moisture or some S# # like that.

Not to take away anything from Mr. McElroy or Mr. Turner I just think the basic idea sucks. In the Spawn series there is Granny Wanda, Terry Cyan. And a beautiful heaven. What the hell does this story line have? Sobbing children, people pleading for their life and a Spawn I can't stand to look at.

Is this gonna go anywhere? Is there anything on this earth that will shed some hope. Please write back and tell me if I'm wasting my time with this book.

PS Mr. McFarlane. Congratulations on your success with Spawn and keep up the good work. Also I'm looking very forward to the cartoon on HBO and the movie. Also thanks for keeping the book prices down.

A concerned Christian
Jason Burky

There are some big subjects in the world that are going to lead people to a divergence of opinions. Obviously religion is one of them. Many times I've said I'm not here to ridicule or persecute anyone's beliefs. The stories we write are pure fantasy. It's just another take on a theme that some people might not want to accept. But again, just because you show an opinion does not negate someone else's opinion. It's just that: an opinion. It's just one person's vision. As you see by the follow up issues of this book, Curse is a book about diversification. So if you hang around, I think you'll see some things you like more than others.

Curse Words,

Just finished reading Curse #4 and well...I don't get it, sorry. What was I missing? I read each one expecting the last one to answer all my questions and was only more confused at the end. It had such potential in comparing...a Spawn with the dead Vampire Dracula too. Don't get me wrong I love Spawn and will continue to always get every issue. I will compliment you on painting the comic (panels) I have never seen that done before with a comic, however some of the pictures lacked where others were fantastic. You could tell some paintings took weeks where others looked like they were done in minutes.

I would like to also make a comment regarding all the many readers who write in to your letters column with the notion that you (Todd) are some sort of atheistic demon worshiper. I know this is not true (at least I don't think so) for myself enjoy drawing demons and am merely interested in demonology and fascinated by the occult. This does not mean that I am a Satanist, and it bothers me that people would think otherwise. After all I don't believe in demons I also enjoy fantasy but that doesn't mean that dragons or unicorns exist, or does it?

A confused UN-demon worshiper
Schenectady, NY

I think there is a misconception as to what all these creatures actually mean. To me they are just monsters and to me a monster is a monster. So whether it's Frankenstein or a demon or an alien, it's just about them being monsters. People tend to read far too much into anything beyond that.
After 5 o'clock when I'm done with the day, people would be fairly bored at how average my life is and how normal I am. Just because you do something from 9-5, you don't think about it 24 hours a day. For instance, does every accountant come home and start going over the grocery bill to make sure the family budget is in line with their new expenditures? The answer is no. He or she, like me, comes home, bounces their kids on their knee, and kisses their spouse until it's time to get up and go to work the next day. No big deal.

Dear Curse Words

I finally had time to buy Curse of the Spawn #4 and reread the first story arc of the series. (Not having to rush to the comic book store every week is one of the pluses of being a subscriber.) Where do I begin? This past year I was thinking about expanding my usual haul of comics after a couple of DC/Milestone series I collected got the ax. I saw the ad for Curse of the Spawn in PREVIEWS and was intrigued by the concept of a comic exploring all the past and future HellSpawn. So I decided to buy the series despite the fact I really didn't follow Spawn itself that long.

If issue #1 is any indication Curse of the Spawn is the Millennium to Spawn's The X-Files in regard to the horror and suspense. This issue introduced readers to an apocalyptic world which makes the post-nuclear holocaust setting of The Terminator look like Disney World. I got chills when I first read Curse of the Spawn #1 even though I was on a bus during the day. (I hope nobody read this comic at night.) This effect can be attributed to the intense artwork of Dwayne Turner and Danny Miki. I really like Dwayne's pencils on Marvel's Black Panther, Panther's Prey, and his work in Sovereign 7 is even sharper. But seeing his present level of skill has made me say "Whoa!"

Alan McElroy is the other component needed for this scary book. He's helped craft some of the most bizarre and gruesome monsters I've seen since John Rozum's work on Xombi. The Daemons look like a head-on collision between pterosaurs and your worst nightmare. The Navkies were pretty disturbing since they used to be kids, but are now voracious, undead man-eaters. Speaking of pretty, Malebolgia looks quite attractive when compared to Phlegethonyarre. (I guess having severe underbite and human skulls stuck in between your teeth would make anyone look seriously ugly.)

My favorite of the demons had to be Abaddon, the Destroyer with those cool wings and fanged tendrils. I was surprised to see Abaddon is mentioned in the Bible: Revelations 9:11 to be exact. I guess the verse was plenty of inspiration for Alan, Dwayne, and Danny when they [were] trying to get just the right personality and look for the character. The most intriguing aspect of Abaddon was the swarm of demon locusts, which turn human corpses into Nightmares. This reminds me of the Borg from Star Trek in that human beings are placed in a situation where they must battle creatures who were once friends and family.

Before I forget the name of the comic, let's talk about Daniel Lianso: the new HellSpawn. I love his skeletal appearance, wicked spikes, and the cybernetic wiring across his face. But what makes Lianso really vicious are those pulse-slash tendrils, which are more akin to living tentacles than mere chains. As Simmons, eat your heart out.

Initially, I really had little like or sympathy for Daniel Lianso. I understood the young Daniel having to kill his father to protect his family, but that still didn't exactly absolve the murders and other sins he would commit later as an adult. As I won't comment on the slice and dice job he did on those human soldiers when he was resurrected as a HellSpawn. However, Daniel's love for Madrid and Matthew would help show the lingering compassion in the "merciless" officer of Hell. The real moment of truth was Daniel deciding whether to kill Matthew or let him be baptized. It was really smart and courageous when Daniel used his precious life energy to teleport Matthew to safety, thereby beating Phlegethonyarre at his own game. You have to wonder if the Clown has a point about humans being poor choices as HellSpawn. Like Simmons before him, Daniel Lianso openly defied an Archon of Hell and destroyed Abaddon, a major demon lord on top of that.

I have a few questions before I go.

1) In this series it was noted that a HellSpawn is chosen once every four hundred years. However, the Spawn Bible states a HellSpawn is chosen once every century. Which is it?
2) Is Viking Spawn the same character as Nordik the Norse HellSpawn from Spawn Fan Edition? If so, this is surprising since the profile card on the Viking Spawn action figure portrays him as being rather heroic. This is a contrast to the blood thirsty butcher Nordik is.
3) In Curse of the Spawn #3, D.B. Sweeney is listed as the guy who will play Terry Fitzgerald in Spawn - The Movie. But isn't D.B. Sweeney white?

All in all, Curse of the Spawn is an excellent comic that I intend to follow as long as Image is willing to publish it. I cannot overemphasize how great a job Alan McElroy is doing as a first-time comic book writer. The only thing more shocking was Mark Hamill co-writing a cool mini-series, The Black Pearl for Dark Horse, but that's another story. Curse of the Spawn is so cool that it helped convince me to become a regular Spawn reader. Congratulations, guys. Continue the stellar work.

Sincerely
Frederick D. Weaver
Washington, DC

Given that we'll be presenting some of the Spawns' past and present, each one reacts to the Curse differently. Some will embrace it early on and others will struggle against it before finally losing their ultimate battle. Just because you happen to see a Spawn acting good or evil, remember each of these characters have a long life ahead of them, unlike you or I who constantly grow and change our philosophies. For example, Medieval Spawn had been portrayed as a fairly decent sort but that's because we've seen him early on in his career. Ultimately there is a reason Malebolgia chose all these people. Try as they may, no Spawn has been able to break his deal with the devil which is why the question has been posed in the other book - is Al Simmons "the one"?
The inconsistencies that crop up between the books, the toys and the movie are just part of setting each thing be its own.

To whom it may concern

I would like to begin this letter the same way everyone else who writes does. "I would like to start off by saying that this comic book is the best S#!t out there." And no, that is not sarcasm that you sense in my words it is merely the truth, with a bit of reality. Anyway this letter does have a serious side to it. I would like to express certain things that I have noticed about the Spawn series.

1) HELL. I have noticed that your Spawn series started out with a Dante's Inferno version of hell: the nine levels. Lucifer being the ruler of the ninth and Malebolgia being the ruler of the eighth. But you have made a couple of modifications which are not totally out of order, such as adding another level (heaven) in the Angela and Glory team up. Plus the fact that in issue #53 of Spawn Malebolgia was suddenly the ruler of the ninth level and that was where Spawn had been, well "spawned." That in itself went against even issue #8 when Kincaid was turned into a Spawn "in the eighth" by the Vindicator. What happened in issue #53, did Malebolgia defeat Lucifer and somehow alter reality to make Spawn return to the ninth level instead of the eighth?
2) This again deals with hell but in a different series. In Curse of the Spawn, for some reason hell has gained three extra levels, and is now ruled by a creature named Phlegethonyarre. That character brings me to my next point, why is it that every one who is evil in these books has an underbite. And the more evil they are the bigger the underbite. Was that done intentionally?
3) In issue #3 of Curse of the Spawn, on the second to last page, there is an ad for Spawn #55, which reads in part "...Spawn goes overseas to verify the data. While abroad he accidentally meets an old war buddy who once saved his life - the mysterious Saigon. Spawn's new direction continues as our two favorite detectives, Sam and Twitch, take their prized '55 Chevy out for a spin." As on the ad is a picture of Terry running through a puddle emptying a clip from his gun as though he were in the middle of some sort of action. In fact, these things could not be further from the truth. Terry's in through practically the entire book at his computer keeping in contact with Al. Neither Saigon, Sam, nor Twitch appears in any of this issue. Could you offer some explanation to this? Was it a false ad, or was the story line changed?

I'm sorry if this letter was not the most positive that you have received. This letter is not all nit-picking criticisms however. I am very glad that you have returned to using the power meter in issue #56 and could not be more grateful to the staff of these Spawn titles for their magnificent work.

My final question is directed towards Mr. McFarlane. On the Spiderman issues that you did, underneath your name, in your signature, on the covers of those books, there appeared a question mark. Why is that?

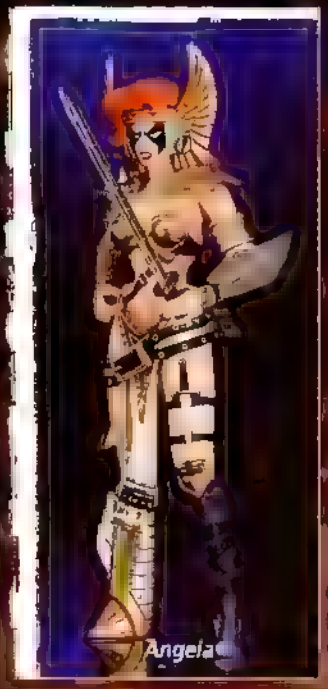
Sincerely,
Donald Hoeler
Roswell, GA

The whole concept of Hell is one that hasn't been completely fleshed out in my mind. Just like Heaven, it's too big of an issue to put in a box. Someday I'll get around to putting all the pieces together and defining it in a more linear fashion. For now it's just about rolling with the punches.
The visual look of the bad guy is based upon the concept of how man was created. God created man in his own image and so with that rationale in my mind this also applies to Hell. When the day comes and I show the face of Satan, he'll probably have an underbite, too.
In reference to your question about the solicitation; we have to set those up so far in advance that by the time we get to the actual story, events have modified themselves. Instead of being a slave to the ad, I do the best I can and just keep moving.

End Cap

First off, we'd like to thank everyone who joined the McFarlane Toys Collector's Club. We had a little bit of trouble getting things going smoothly, but we think every thing is in place now. As this is written, every Gold Level member has a Red Angela out the door and on the way. The first flyer of what is available to club members is also out the door. Our new Art Director, Brent Ashe, did a great job. We're already working hard on the next one, which should go out to members in May. If you aren't currently a member, or have a question about your membership, write to us. The address for the club is:

McFarlane Toys Collector's Club
P.O. Box 701545
Plymouth, MI 48170-0966



On to the letters...

Roxanne from Wilton, NH wrote an eloquent letter extolling our female figures and wondered why we don't do an entire line of Angels (preferably with dragons). Roxi, while we know that there are a LOT of people out there who only collect female figures, we have a couple of problems. First off, in American stores at least, it's easier to sell monsters and demons than it is to sell alluring females. Once we get past selling to the collectors who usually buy one of everything in the line, the market is aimed at young males. Those young males will choose a male action figure with a huge gun over a beautiful female action figure every time. Therefore, female action figures simply do not sell as well. The toy stores know this and therefore, don't buy them from us. At least here in America, toy guns are considered to be more acceptable than seductive women. We're not saying that it makes sense, that's just the current mentality. So why don't we make them and sell them direct to you? Because, at this time, it's still not economically feasible. We have to make a LOT of a figure to pay for a new mold (those things cost a small fortune). So we need the figures to sell through a lot of stores to help amortize the cost of initial production. And if we've already seen that stores are reluctant to carry too many women figures, it's just not easy to produce/sell the required numbers.

How do some other companies get by with lesser numbers for figures like Catholic School Nun Annabells? Take a closer look at those figures. They are designed to be made out of five sections for the limbs and head and two for the body for a total of seven molded pieces. Plus, those figures are smaller than ours. McFarlane figures have a LOT more pieces (19 on Angela, 24 on Tiffany, etc...) and are larger. Thus, we have to use about three times the number of molds that they use (once you add in weapons), pay for more plastic and paint steps...it's all in the detailing.

Rob from bedford.progress.com wondered about the cards on our figures. How hard can it be to snap a new picture if the prototype changes? We have to print up the cards in advance while we're still working on a figure because it takes a while for them to be made. Then if it turns out that the head needs resculpting at the last minute to fit the new helmet, we COULD just throw out hundreds of thousands of cards, but that would be wasteful (and expensive). So we hope you just bear with us and realize that like all the other companies, some changes occur in production and the picture may not always reflect the finished product.

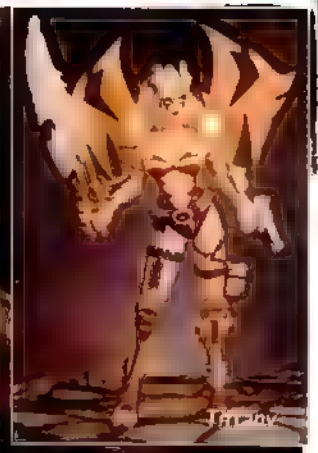
John in San Francisco, CA had a similar question. Why is there no bio card on Conqueror in the Total Chaos repaints? When Todd decided to pull Gore from the repaints, we weren't sure what he was going to be replaced with. So we got started on the back of the cards and had those made up while we were working. Finally, we got a name we could trademark and we went to press on the front of the cards. By the way, did you know that we made less than Half as many Gores as we did of Malebolgias?

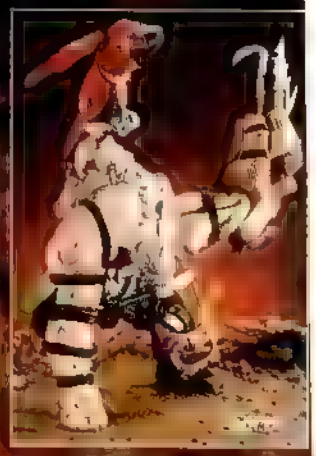
Blake from Poughkeepsie, NY wondered why Toys R Us or K-Mart didn't get their toys in as fast as some of the other chains this year. Each chain of stores orders at different times. Since we try to fill orders on a first-come first-filled basis, later orders (especially large ones) will have to come from later shipments. And for that matter, when we ship toys to chain stores, just because it left OUR hands on February 1st doesn't mean you'll see it in stores the next weekend. Chains have to get it into their warehouses, divide it up for each store with their own allocation system, ship them out to each of the stores, and then the stores have to wait until there's space on the pegs to put out the new figures. This pipeline can take a few weeks to go through, so just hang in there, you'll see them eventually.

Quite a few people from all over the world asked about getting Todd's autograph on things or sketches. While Todd really likes attending conventions and autographing things for the fans, his schedule doesn't allow for as many appearances as he would like throughout the years. He writes and inks his monthly comic book, runs a toy company, is the executive producer for the HBO animation series and the movie, and an active partner in the Image publishing company. And don't forget, he has a beautiful family that he enjoys spending time with. Any one of these above positions is a full time job. Needless to say, sketching and autographing something for everyone who requests it would be an impossible task.

That's it until next month. Address your concerns and questions to:

Spawn EndCap
P.O. Box 27228
Tempe, AZ 85285-7228





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Spawn the Animated Series Airs on HBO at Midnight beginning May 16th

Spawn

HBO Animation

Step Two: Voices

It's official, a firm on-air date has been set by HBO for Spawn the animated series. As part of HBO's "Round Midnight" slate of original adult programming, Todd McFarlane's Spawn will premiere on Friday, May 16th with the first of six successive half-hour episodes to air Friday at midnight ET/PT.

Several people writing to this column have asked for a list of voices. Here's the official list: Keith David (Spawn) who was in Dead Presidents and Richard Dysart (Cogliostro) who played Leyland Mackenzie on LA Law. Michael Nicolosi (Clown), Dominique Jennings (Wanda Blake), Victor Love (Terry Fitzgerald, Bobby), Kath Soucie (Cyan), James Keane (Sam Burke, Tony Twist), Michael McShane (Twitch Williams, Gareb), John Rafter Lee (Jason Wynn), Ronnie Cox (Senator McMillian [a new addition to the Spawn saga], Billy Kincaid), James Hanes (Violator, Overtkill), and Ruben Santiago-Hudson (Jess Chapel).

Choosing actors to provide the voices for each character in any animated series is a time consuming yet very critical aspect. Animated characters become known to an audience not only from their physical appearance, but how they sound. Homer Simpson has a distinct voice that fits his character and his speech has become synonymous with his appearance. Such is also the case with Scooby Doo, Bugs Bunny, and Beavis and Butthead.

Catherine Winder, producer on the series, expresses that "trying to get everybody to [agree to and] sign off on those voices" is a huge undertaking. The process takes months with several hundred people reading for only a few key roles. Putting a voice to a character who, up until that point, has only appeared in a one-dimensional comic book form is quite an undertaking. Eric Radomski, the supervising director, explains the recording process. "After the scripts are completed, the voices are recorded. When the actors are chosen and even when they record the voices, there is very little if any artwork for them to use as reference." Eric directs the actors as they read in the recording studio and stresses, "you need to record as many takes as you can. The actors work in a room behind a mike...and sometimes have character designs to work with...[but generally] the actors need to be motivated by the character and little else."

Several actors, depending on their experience and range of vocal talent, can read for various different characters in each series although with Spawn, only a few actors read dual roles. The vocalization of each character sets a blueprint which follows only after the writing process in the domino effect of creating an animated show. When recording, the editor makes notes of which takes he or she likes, assembles the final voice track, and presents that to the story board artists. They use that recording as their inspiration as they begin planning out both the characters' facial expressions and the flow each individual scene will take. Hence, the bulk of the creative process derives from or is directly connected to the casting of voices. Therefore, choosing actors to provide each voice can ultimately determine the success of an animated series such as Spawn.

Several [illegible] been addressed to this column and most of your questions have been answered within this month's column. Next month, be on the lookout for more answers, and keep those letters coming.

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